

Remarks

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action mailed August 27, 2004. Claims 1 to 27 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 8, 11 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 21, 24 and 25 have been amended to be in independent form. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-19 and 21-27 are submitted for reconsideration at this time.

Applicant notes that a Revocation and Appointment of New Agent and Change of Address was filed on August 26, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests that all future correspondence be directed to new counsel at the listed address. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, Applicant further requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-19 and 21-27. Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-19 and 21-27 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 21, 24 and 25 have been amended to be in independent form. Allowance of claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 21, 24 and 25 is solicited.

Claims 6, 7, 10, 13-19, 22, 23, 26 and 27 are dependent upon newly independent allowable base claims. Allowance of claims 6, 7, 10, 13-19, 22, 23, 26 and 27 is also solicited.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,474,300 to Steffen ("Steffen" hereafter). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffen. Without acquiescing to the Examiner's

rejections, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 3, 8, 11 and 20 to advance prosecution of the present application. Withdrawal of the prior art rejections is solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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